## **REMARKS**

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the above-identified application in more proper format under United States practice.

By the present Preliminary Amendment original Claims 1-17 are cancelled and new Claims 18-34 are presented for examination. New Claims 18-34 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including original Claims 1-17, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new Claims 18-34 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with original Claims 1-17.

A new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is also submitted herein.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

22850

(703) 413-3000

Fax #: (703) 413-2220

SNS/law

I:\atty\SNS\220897-pr.wpd

## 220897US

Marked-Up Copy
Serial No:

Amendment Filed on: 3-25-2002

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

Claims 18-34 (New).

**IN THE ABSTRACT** 

Abstract (New).